



BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
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SALEM, NEW JERSEY 08079

LEE R. WARE
Director

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April 24, 2009

Hon. Frank LoBiondo, Congressman
2427 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman LoBiondo,

Thank you very much for your letter of April 9, 2009 concerning projects associated with the next surface transportation authorization. As Director of the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders, I am always looking for innovative financial solutions to some of the challenges that face the citizens of this County. One such challenge is our segmented transportation system.

As you are more than aware, Salem County is geographically large in size. This fact makes the task of public transportation difficult. Our transit busses, for which we hold a five year contract from New Jersey Transit, operate in the eastern side of the County. Many municipalities depend on feeder lines run by the County Office on Aging for senior and disabled residents and for working folk through yet another program. At this time there is no coordination between programs, which results in waste and in many instances a failure to serve the needs of our population.

As a result, the County has set up a Transit Task Force. We are currently working with SJTPO, and Cross County to determine the best possible solution to this challenge. However, at this juncture, all are in agreement that a combined organization, with one leadership role operating under one roof is the best solution.

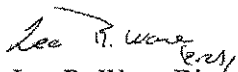
Through the surface transportation authorization, the County of Salem is requesting \$2,000,000 to fund the purchase and renovation of a transit facility that will allow the County of Salem to combine under one roof the management team and all vehicles, maintenance, and dispatch associated with transit in Salem County.


The Freeholder Board unanimously adopted as one of their 2009 goals the study, upgrade, and coordination of the County transit system. To that end, I endorse this application for \$2,000,000. The County of Salem has budgeted \$500,000 in the 2009 budget for the required 20% match for this project if the County should be successful.

As the County moves forward with this plan, implementation public hearings will be held to not only hear the thoughts of the public, but to gain further information as to their needs within the transportation system. We need to make sure the new design is able to serve the needs of the vast majority of residents.

We thank you for this opportunity and look forward to further the cooperation between you and Salem County. Please feel free to reach out to us at any time.

Sincerely,


Lee R. Ware, Director


Beth E. Timberman
Chairperson, Transportation